

From: Morning Consult [energy@e.morningconsult.com]
Sent: 10/11/2016 12:02:04 PM
To: Murray, Bill [Murray.Bill@epa.gov]
Subject: Morning Consult Energy: LCV to Spend Record Amount in 2016 Races; Putin Willing to Work with OPEC



By Jack Fitzpatrick

Today's Washington Brief

- The League of Conservation Voters will spend at least \$40 million on elections this cycle, a record for the environmental group. Combined with NextGen Climate, the Environmental Defense Action Fund, and others, environmental groups are set to spend more than \$100 million, compared to \$85 million in the 2014 cycle. (The Washington Post)
- John Podesta, Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman, pointed to billionaire climate activist Tom Steyer as a potential Department of Energy secretary in 2008, according to an email published by Wikileaks. Podesta also floated former Sen. Tim Wirth (D-Colo.) and then-Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper (D), who is now Colorado's governor, for the job. (The Hill)
- Opponents of the Dakota Access pipeline urged the Obama administration not to let construction move forward after a federal court decided on Sunday night not to issue an injunction. Standing Rock Sioux Chairman Dave Archambault said opponents "aren't done with this fight," while the Sierra Club called on the Army Corps of Engineers to reject the permit for construction on federal land. (Morning Consult)

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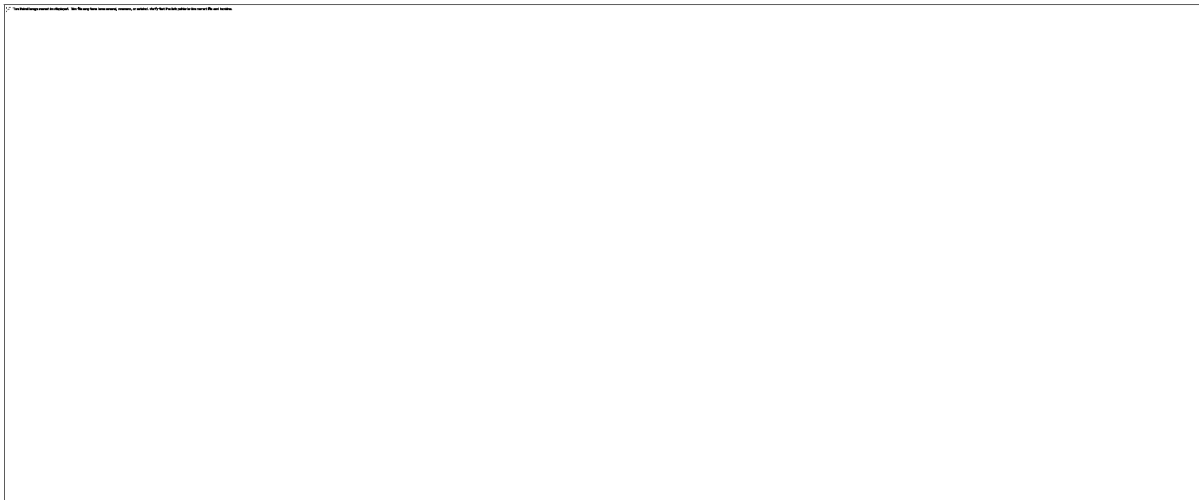
Today's Business Brief

- Russian President Vladimir Putin said his country is willing to join OPEC in cutting or freezing oil output. If Russia stands by the commitment, there's a lot of work to do by the next OPEC meeting on Nov. 30 to strike a deal.
(Bloomberg News)
- International Atomic Energy Agency Director Yukiya Amano said a nuclear power plant was targeted by a disruptive cyberattack two to three years ago. He added that four years ago, someone tried to smuggle highly enriched uranium that could have been used to build a "dirty bomb." (Reuters)
- Oil prices dropped Tuesday after news that global supplies rose in September. Brent crude oil futures were down 0.9 percent at \$52.68, while West Texas Intermediate futures were down 0.8 percent to \$50.95.
(MarketWatch)

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Today's Chart Review

Energy Efficiency Market Report 2016
International Energy Agency



Mark Your Calendars (All Times Eastern)

Tuesday

28th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol in Kigali, Rwanda

Brian Deese, senior advisor to President Obama, speaks at Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy **9:45 a.m.**

NOAA Administrator Kathryn Sullivan speaks at a Resources for the Future forum **11:30 a.m.**

Wednesday

28th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol in Kigali, Rwanda

Thursday

28th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol in Kigali, Rwanda

Former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Richard Myers, others discuss bio- and agro-terrorism **10 a.m.**

Christy Goldfuss, Managing Director of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, speaks at the Women's Energy Network **12 p.m.**

Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz speaks at Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy **6:45 p.m.**

Former Rep. Rush Holt (D-N.J.), others discuss science policy and climate change at Pennsylvania State University **7 p.m.**

Friday

28th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol in Kigali, Rwanda

Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy holds discussion on the future of the energy grid **9:30 a.m.**

General

Top green group to spend at least \$40 million this election, shattering past records

Juliet Eilperin, The Washington Post

The League of Conservation Voters will spend at least \$40 million this election, according to its president, Gene Karpinski, a record-setting amount for the group that underscores the extent to which liberal groups are working to buttress Democrats' campaigns this year. Coupled with the efforts of billionaire Tom Steyer's NextGen Climate and a handful of other groups, such as the Environmental Defense Action Fund, the Natural Resources Defense Council Action Fund and the Sierra Club, environmental activists are poised to spend more than \$100 million this cycle.

Leaked email: Podesta pushed Tom Steyer for Obama's Cabinet in 2008

Timothy Cama, The Hill

The chairman of Hillary Clinton's Democratic presidential campaign wanted President Obama to consider billionaire Tom Steyer for a Cabinet position in 2008, according to a leaked email. The revelation came among documents published on Monday by Wikileaks, which said they were from John Podesta's email account.

State cutbacks, recalcitrance hinder Clean Air Act enforcement

Jie Jenny Zou, Center for Public Integrity

With the passage of the Clean Air Act in 1970, Congress pledged to protect public health with the guarantee of safe air. The act relies on cooperation between federal and state regulators, but experts, including some at the EPA, say its benefits aren't being fully realized because enforcement remains wildly inconsistent.

Bloomberg, Schwarzenegger floated for EPA, DOE chiefs in '08
Robin Bravender, Greenwire

When the Obama transition team was drafting its short lists for top agency jobs back in 2008, then-New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg was floated as a contender for U.S. EPA administrator, according to hacked emails allegedly from John Podesta's private account. The emails from Podesta - Hillary Clinton's campaign chairman and former chairman of the Obama transition team - were posted by the group WikiLeaks.

Study: Global Energy Efficiency Has Improved, but Not Enough
Jack Fitzpatrick, Morning Consult

Global energy efficiency has improved in recent years, but not enough to significantly slow climate change, according to a report by the International Energy Agency. Energy intensity, measured by the amount of energy used per unit of gross domestic product, improved by 1.8 percent in 2015, after improving by 1.5 percent in 2014.

Dollar Climbs as Treasuries Decline on Fed Wagers; Rand Sinks
Emma O'Brien and Lukanyo Mnyanda, Bloomberg News

The dollar rose to its strongest level in 11 weeks and U.S. bonds declined as investors boosted wagers that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates this year. South Africa's rand tumbled after a report that the nation's finance minister will be charged with fraud.

Oil & Natural Gas

Putin Says Russia Ready to Join OPEC Effort to Limit Oil Supply
Elena Mazneva and Stepan Kravchenko, Bloomberg News

Russia, the world's largest energy exporter, is ready to join OPEC in limiting oil production with either a freeze or a cut, said President Vladimir Putin. "Russia is ready to join in joint measures to limit output and calls on other oil exporters to do the same," Putin said on Monday at the World Energy Congress in Istanbul.

Oil-Well Drilling Drops Only Slightly in Q3
Jack Fitzpatrick, Morning Consult

The U.S. oil industry drilled and completed 2,285 wells in the third quarter of 2016, a slight decline from the second quarter, according to the American Petroleum

Institute. The number represents a 3.7 percent decline, which is actually an improvement compared to data from the last couple of years.

Diamondback Energy No Longer Pursuing Acquisition Talks **Austen Hufford, The Wall Street Journal**

Diamondback Energy Inc. said Monday it is no longer engaged in acquisition talks after negotiations of a potential deal fell apart. The company said on Monday it had been engaged in discussions for an acquisition but that it is "not actively pursuing further negotiations at this time."

Utilities & Infrastructure

Dakota Access Opponents Unswayed by Court Decision Favoring Pipeline **Jack Fitzpatrick, Morning Consult**

Opponents of the Dakota Access pipeline vowed to continue fighting the project on Sunday night and Monday morning after the D.C. Circuit Court declined to issue an injunction on construction on a small piece of land. The Army Corps of Engineers is still withholding its permission for construction on federal land at Lake Oahe, after initially giving it the go-ahead, so opponents have held out hope that the pipeline won't be completed.

NorthWestern to seek more power capacity amid coal closures **Matthew Brown, The Associated Press**

NorthWestern Energy executives say the utility will seek 55 megawatts of additional power capacity by 2019 to ensure it can satisfy peak customer demands for electricity. NorthWestern Vice President John Hines said Monday that the utility will issue a formal request for proposals to meet its future power needs by early next year.

Renewables

BHP to Test Solar for Remote Mine Sites as Renewable Costs Fall **David Stringer, Bloomberg News**

BHP Billiton Ltd., which forecasts wind and solar energy can achieve price parity with rival sources within a decade, is partnering in a battery-storage project to test technology that could be adopted at its remote sites. The world's biggest miner is participating with partners, including Origin Energy Ltd., in the \$32 million Lakeland Solar and Storage Project in Australia's Queensland-state, to test a 13 megawatt solar photo-voltaic installation and grid-scale storage, BHP said Monday in a statement.

Georgia Republican Champions Solar Energy Sara Peach, Yale Climate Connections

In Georgia, Lauren "Bubba" McDonald is showing that solar energy is not a partisan issue. McDonald is a lifelong Republican, the chairman of the Georgia Public Service Commission, and one of the state's biggest advocates for solar energy.

Coal

Eskom Backs Coal, Nuclear to Meet South Africa's Power Needs Kevin Crowley, Bloomberg News

Eskom Holdings SOC Ltd. supports getting power from independently run coal projects rather than renewable sources as South Africa's state-owned utility expects current generation will be insufficient to meet demand by 2022. The utility should look to buy electricity from independent coal-fueled projects, group Generation Executive Matshela Koko wrote in Johannesburg-based Business Report newspaper Tuesday.

Glencore's Collinsville mine to reopen, 200 jobs on offer (Brisbane) Courier-Mail

One of Queensland's oldest coal mines at Collinsville is restarting production and will hire up to 200 new workers. Coal has been mined at Collinsville for almost 100 years but Glencore cut production in December 2015, citing declining coal prices.

Nuclear

IAEA chief: Nuclear power plant was disrupted by cyber attack
Andrea Shalal, Reuters

A nuclear power plant became the target of a disruptive cyber attack two to three years ago, and there is a serious threat of militant attacks on such plants, the head of the United Nations nuclear watchdog said on Monday. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director Yukiya Amano also cited a case in which an individual tried to smuggle a small amount of highly enriched uranium about four years ago that could have been used to build a so-called "dirty bomb".

Did we really 'almost lose Detroit' in nuclear mishap 50 years ago?
JC Reindl, WZZM

As Michigan and the nation's energy profiles are poised to change dramatically in the coming decade, the 50th anniversary last week of the Fermi 1 nuclear plant mishap in Monroe County - the genesis for the book and song "We Almost Lost Detroit" - is a stark reminder that decisions on how to meet the economy's energy needs are nearly always controversial and may bring unanticipated consequences. Fermi 1 was the worst nuclear accident at a U.S. commercial power plant in the years before Three Mile Island jolted the nation.

Climate

Climate change has been making western forest fires worse for decades, study says

Chelsea Harvey, The Washington Post

Many scientists have predicted that climate change could cause wildfires to increase in the future. And a new study, just out on Monday, demonstrates just how much it's already been making them worse.

There's no oxygen left in this campaign for a debate about carbon
Chris Mooney, The Washington Post

It's becoming more and more clear what role climate and energy issues are going to play in this presidential campaign - a minor one at best. On the one hand, it's a slight improvement upon the campaign of 2012, in that the subject of our warming planet is now actually coming up peripherally in presidential debates.

The Rising Environmental Toll of China's Offshore Island Grab
Mike Ives, Environment360

The South China Sea's rich natural heritage, long threatened by overfishing, now faces a new ecological danger: A campaign by China to build artificial islands on disputed reefs in the Spratlys and elsewhere in the sea. China's island-building initiative signals an aggressive stance intended to secure dominance in the South China Sea, a strategic area that contains some of the world's busiest shipping lanes and is a potential source of oil deposits.

Musk fires back at coal CEO who called Tesla a 'fraud'
Robert Ferris and Tom DiChristopher, CNBC

Tesla CEO Elon Musk tweeted out his response to comments Murray Energy CEO Robert E. Murray made on CNBC's "Squawk Box" on Monday, when he said the green car maker "has gotten \$2 billion from the taxpayer," and "has not made a penny yet in cash flow." Musk first linked to the video on Twitter, then said the "real fraud going on is denial of climate science."

Opinions, Editorials & Perspectives

A Costly Power Plan Has Its Day in Court
Terry Jarrett, Morning Consult

Last month, a federal appeals court heard arguments regarding President Obama's Clean Power Plan. At issue is whether the CPP represents a lawful effort to rein in carbon dioxide emissions from the nation's power sector.

'Clean Coal' Is Far From Real
The Editorial Board, Bloomberg View

"There is a thing called clean coal," Donald Trump said during Sunday night's debate. But there isn't - and won't be for a considerable time, if ever.

Britain's Nuclear Cover-Up
Peter Wynn Kirby, The New York Times

Last month, the British government signed off on what might be the most controversial and least promising plan for a nuclear power station in a generation. Why did it do this? Because the project isn't just about energy: It's also a stealth initiative to bolster Britain's nuclear deterrent.

Research Reports, Issue Briefs & Case Studies

World Energy Scenarios 2016
World Energy Council

Since 1970, the world has seen rapid growth in energy demand, mainly satisfied by fossil fuels. The future will be different.



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